

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 34, No. 6

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

March 22, 2005

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

'Women Change America'

U.S. communities celebrate
Women's History Month
Pages 8 & 9



Sgt. Krystal Darcey, who was a specialist and a member of the Stuttgart-based 554th Military Police Company when she deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, is one of thousands of women who are playing increasingly integral roles within the U.S. military. With March designated "Women's History Month," Americans around the world came together for ceremonies to honor the accomplishments women have made in all aspects of society and to look ahead toward the challenges they continue to face. (Photo courtesy Department of Defense/Army News Service)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 4

Renovation work begins in Kelley Club

The Kelley Club temporarily relocates its bar and game machines as work begins on an extensive renovation project.



Page 14

YS grapplers hit the mats on Panzer

The Stuttgart Sabercats host a 7-team tournament for Youth Services wrestlers ages 5 to 14.



Thorns ‘n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

The two women who work in the customer service office at the Patch Commissary, who graciously helped me order a special cake for my husband’s promotion after I had missed the order-date cut-off. Because of their extra effort, we had a beautiful USMC cake for a Monday morning promotion. Thank you!

Larissa Sparks of the Stuttgart Law Center, for her unfailing positive attitude and professional demeanor. My every interaction with Ms. Sparks leaves me impressed not only with her professional abilities, but also with her willingness to work with her customers to meet their needs and exceed their expectations.

The parents, Patch High School wrestlers, YS employees, and everyone else who worked so hard to make the Stuttgart Sabercats’ home wrestling meet such a tremendous experience for our young athletes. (For more about the YS meet see page 14.)

Thorns to:

Community members who continue to monopolize the washers and dryers in the Panzer Kaserne laundromat. I understand that watching your laundry go ‘round and ‘round may not be the most exciting way to spend an afternoon, but that’s nowhere near as frustrating as waiting in an empty laundromat for someone to return and fish their clothes out of the machines so I can use them.

Perhaps if your laundry was waiting for you on the floor when you returned, you’d get the message that courtesy is a two-way street?

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group Commander

Public Affairs Officer
Jennifer Sanders
pao@6asg.army.mil

Editor Assistant Editor
Hugh C. McBride Melanie Casey
citizen@6asg.army.mil caseym@6asg.army.mil

Reporters
Jen Stephan Mildred Green
jen.stephan@us.army.mil greenm@6asg.army.mil

Terri Alejandro
alejandrot@6asg.army.mil

Brandon Beach
brandon.a.beach@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil

Contact Information
Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Plieningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

Advertising Information
For advertising information call 349-8443/civ. 06155-601443. For classifieds call 349-8447/civ. 06155-601447.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Citizen are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 6th Area Support Group public affairs officer. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense.

The Citizen is printed by the Stars and Stripes under written agreement. The European Stars and Stripes is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the European Stars and Stripes.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

www.stuttgart.army.mil

In their own words
Thoughts by (and about) women

From ancient Greece to modern America, the role of women in society has rarely been far from the thoughts of the world’s greatest (and, sometimes, smallest) minds.

In honor of Women’s History Month, The Citizen presents a sampling of thoughts by and about women as uttered by some of history’s more significant speakers.

- “Nothing can be more absurd than the practice that prevails in our country of men and women not following the same pursuits with all their strengths and with one mind, for thus, the state instead of being whole is reduced to half.” – Plato, ancient Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, writing in *The Laws*
- “It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.” – Susan B. Anthony, 19th century abolitionist, suffragist and campaigner for women’s rights
- “Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote. The relative positions to be assumed by man and woman in the working out of our civilization were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence than ours.” – Grover Cleveland, 22nd (1885-1889) and 24th (1893-1897) president of the United States
- My decision to register women [for the Selective Service] confirms what is already obvious throughout our society-that women are now providing all types of skills in every profession. The military should be no exception.” – Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United States (1977-1981)
- “I’m not denyin’ the women are foolish. God Almighty made ‘em to match the men.” – George Eliot, 19th century British author (real name: Mary Ann Evans)
- “Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, ‘She doesn’t have what it takes.’ They will say, ‘Women don’t have what it takes’” – Clare Boothe Luce, 20th century American writer and politician.
- “I do not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves.” – Mary Shelly Wollstonecraft, 19th century British author (perhaps best known for writing *Frankenstein*)
- The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any. – Alice Walker, author
- “The practice of putting women on pedestals began to die out when it was discovered that they could give orders better from there” – Betty Grable, 20th century American film actress
- “I hate women because they always know where things are.” Voltaire, 18th century French author and philosopher, (real name: Francois Marie Arouet)
- “Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but backwards and in high heels.” – Faith Whittlesey (former U.S. ambassador to Switzerland)
- “Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.” – Timothy Leary (former Harvard professor and LSD guru)
- “The world has never yet seen a truly great and virtuous nation because in the degradation of woman the very fountains of life are poisoned at their source.” – Lucretia Mott, 19th century activist
- “Some of us are becoming the men we wanted to marry.” – Gloria Steinem, writer, feminist, founder of Ms. Magazine

For more about the accomplishments of (and challenges facing) women in the United States see pages 8&9.

President praises American women

By George W. Bush
U.S. President

For generations, American women have helped build our great nation through their leadership as writers, teachers, artists, politicians, doctors, and scientists, and in other professions.

As mothers, daughters, and sisters, women have supported and strengthened American families and communities.

Women are at the forefront of entrepreneurship in America, creating millions of new jobs and helping to build our Nation’s economic prosperity.

We celebrate those who have broken down barriers for women, such as Jacqueline Cochran, who was the founder and director of the Women’s Air Force Service Pilots during World War II and the first woman to break the sound barrier.

Gerty Theresa Radnitz Cori was the first American woman to receive a Nobel Prize in the sciences, and her research significantly advanced the treatment of diabetes.

In 1926, Olympic Gold Medalist Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel.

Marian Anderson, a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, opened doors in music as the first African American to perform with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Juliette Gordon Low encouraged community service and the physical, mental, and spiritual development of

As we work to advance freedom and peace and fight the war on terror, American women in uniform are serving at posts at home and across the world, taking great risks as they make our nation more secure.

America’s young women as founder of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

As we work to advance freedom and peace and fight the war on terror, American women in uniform are serving at posts at home and across the world, taking great risks as they make our nation more secure.

I encourage all Americans to celebrate the extraordinary contributions and accomplishments of American women and to continue our progress in making our society more prosperous, just, and equal.

This is an excerpt from President Bush’s 2005 Women’s History Month proclamation. To read the full text of the proclamation visit www.whitehouse.gov.

Fundraising campaigns underway for Army, Air Force charities

Annual efforts benefit Soldiers, Airmen, families

By Hugh C. McBride

Soldiers and Airmen in Stuttgart are being urged to contribute to service-specific charities that help the military branches "take care of their own."

In conjunction with campaigns in military communities throughout the world, fundraising efforts for Army Emergency Relief and the Air Force Assistance Fund kicked off in Stuttgart earlier this month.

Army Emergency Relief

AER has provided financial aid to almost three million Soldiers and family members since its inception in 1942.

"Since its birth, AER has always been where soldiers are stationed when they needed help," the campaign's president, retired Gen. E.C. Myer, wrote in a letter posted on the AER Web site.

"Though many things have changed over the years, one thing remains constant: our commitment to our long standing principle of caring for your financial emergency with integrity and professionalism," Myer added.

According to the AER Web site, the fund is designed to provide financial assistance (interest-free loans or grants) to individuals in the following categories:

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their dependents.
- Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents.
- Soldiers retired from active duty because of longevity or physical disability, or retired upon reaching age 60 (Reserve Components) and their dependents.
- Surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

For more about AER call Master Sgt. Vivienne Britton at 421-2348/civ. 0711-4328, e-mail brittonb@6asg.army.mil or visit www.aerhq.org.

Air Force Assistance Fund

The local Air Force Assistance Fund's "Commitment to Caring" campaign kicked off March 7 with a ceremony on Patch Barracks.

"Nothing epitomizes more the Air Force core value of 'Excellence in All We Do' than the outstanding yearly contributions of the men and women in blue to the Air Force Assistance Fund," said U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald, who made the inaugural contribution to this year's local fundraising effort.

"The tradition of giving has existed as long as Airmen have been in uniform," added European Mission Support Squadron Commander Col. Karen Taylor. "The outstanding men and women of this community always open their hearts and support this incredibly worthwhile program."

Individuals who contribute to AFAF can direct their donations toward any (or all) of the following charities:

- **The Air Force Aid Society** (www.afas.org) – As the service's official charitable organization, AFAS provides emer-



Robert D. Ward (Joint Combat Camera Center)
Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz visits with Sgt. Jeron Johasva Oct. 7 in Landstuhl Army Medical Center. Providing assistance to injured Soldiers and Airmen is just part of the services provided by the Army Emergency Relief and Air Force Aid Society efforts, both of which have kicked off annual fundraising campaigns.

gency financial assistance and education assistance to Airmen, and also funds a number of base-level community enhancement programs.

- **The Air Force Village Foundation** (www.airforcevillages.com) – AFVF manages two residential communities for retired and honorably separated officers, their spouses, widow(er)s and senior family members.

The charity also sponsors Freedom House, a specially designed facility dedicated to research and caring for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

- **The Air Force Enlisted Villages** (www.afenlistedwidows.org) – This charity offers housing and financial assistance to the surviving spouses of retired Air Force enlisted members. According to the Web site, surviving spouses with the greatest need are cared for first, and none are refused assistance due to financial status.

- **The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation** (www.lemayfoundation.org) – The LeMay Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that provides financial grants of assistance to surviving spouses of all retired Air Force personnel (officers and enlisted).

1st Lt. Ingrid Amadis, co-chairman of Stuttgart's AFAF campaign, said all donations to the charity are tax deductible – and no contribution is too small.

"We encourage everyone to give what they can," Amadis said. "Just like your vote, every dollar counts."

For more about AFAF call Amadis at 430-6965/civ. 0711-680-6965 or visit <http://afassistancefund.org>.

News & Notes

Summer Hire program

The Summer Hire 2005 application season begins March 31. Family members ages 14 to 22 are eligible to apply; available jobs include both office work and outdoor assignments. The program will run June 27 to Aug. 5.

For more information visit www.chra.eur.army.mil and click "Summer Hire."

'Spring ahead' March 27

Daylight Saving Time begins March 27 (Easter Sunday), 2 a.m., in Europe. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed March 26.

Note: As occasionally occurs, DST in the States does not begin this year until one week after it starts in Europe. Thus, from March 27 until April 3, the difference between Germany and the United States will be one hour greater than usual (for example, Germany will be 7 hours ahead of the East Coast and 10 hours ahead of the West Coast).

Shuttle bus schedule changes

Earlier this month the 6th ASG Transportation Motor Pool announced a change to the Stuttgart Shuttle Bus Route #1 schedule.

For more information or to receive an up-to-date copy of the shuttle bus schedule call 421-2472/civ. 0711-729-2472 or e-mail edenr@6asg.army.mil.

Easter Sunrise Service on RB

The 6th ASG Chaplain's Office is sponsoring an outdoor Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., on Robinson Barracks.

Signs at the entrance to RB will direct worshippers to the site of the service, which will be followed by a free breakfast in the RB Chapel Annex.

For more about this event, or for a list of all Easter services in Stuttgart, call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

'Follies' returning to Patch

The 2005 edition of the Patch High School Follies talent show is March 25, 7 p.m., in the PHS Forum.

All community members are invited to attend this showcase of Stuttgart's most talented students.

Tickets cost \$5 per person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

'Steel Magnolias' debuts on Kelley

- The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch presents **Steel Magnolias**, a life-affirming play that will bring you to tears as well as make you roll with laughter, for nine performances in the Kelley Theatre.

Show dates are April 1, 2 and 3; 15, 16 and 17; and 29, 30 and May 1. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the play begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students.

- The Entertainment Branch is also hosting auditions for **School House Rock** April 4 and 5, 7 p.m., in the Stuttgart Music Center.

For more information call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825 or visit www.kelleytheatre.de.

Stress Busters workshop

Learn to cope better with day-to-day stressors by attending Stress Busters April 5, 6 to 7 p.m., in the Army Community Service classroom (Patch Barracks, Washington Center, second floor).

For more information call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

EDIS screenings every Tuesday

Stuttgart's Early Development Intervention Services holds free developmental screenings for infants and toddlers Tuesdays in the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic on Patch Barracks. For details call 431-2697/civ. 07031-15-2697.



Social (Ballroom) Dance Lessons

Patch Community Club

March 29 • April 5, 19 & 26 • May 3 & 10

Merengue @ 6 p.m.
Hustle (Disco Fox) @ 7 p.m.

\$12 for each 50-minute class
\$60 for all six classes

Family discounts & private instruction also available.

For more information call 0711-7070-339 or e-mail fagansl@yahoo.com.



Improvement project underway in Kelley Club

Bar, game machines temporarily relocated to former bowling center

By Hugh C. McBride



photos by Brandon Beach
Workmen have wasted little time in gutting the lounge area in the Kelley Club, the first step in a multi-phase project to make the facility a more attractive destination.

For the next few months, club-goers on Kelley Barracks will need to modify their entertainment plans by about 100 meters.

With renovation work underway in the Kelley Club's permanent location just inside the front gate, the facility's bar, video games and slot machines have been temporarily relocated to the former home of the Kelley Bowling Center (behind the fitness center).

The renovation, which began March 14 and is slated to run through the end of June, will result in a Kelley Club that is "brighter, more inviting and more customer-friendly," said Morale, Welfare and Recreation Operations Chief Mark Cauthers.

When the club reopens, it will feature a redesigned bar and dance area, an improved outdoor patio, a new slot-machine room (featuring the new card-operated machines like those in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne) and remodeled restrooms, Cauthers said.

"I think the community is going to be very impressed [with the results of the renovation]," he said.

6th ASG Deputy Director Joseph Moscone also noted that efforts are underway to fill the club's restaurant space (which was vacated when Charley's Steakery closed March 4) with a new food service operation to serve the individuals who live and work on Kelley.

For the four months that the club is out of com-



Terri Alejandro

While the Kelley Club is being renovated, community members can still enjoy the bar, game machines and television in their interim location in the former home of the Kelley Bowling Center.

mission, its interim location will offer the same hours of operation and almost all of the same services that customers have come to expect, Cauthers said.

"We probably won't be able to host karaoke nights [in the bowling center location], but the bar will be open regular hours, the popcorn machine will be running, and we'll still have free snacks on Fridays [Customer Appreciation Day]," he said.

For more information about MWR facilities, services and operations call 421-2758/civ. 0711-729-2758 or e-mail mark.cauthers@us.army.mil.

Experts take ‘fear factor’ out of tax time

Stuttgart, Garmisch offer free assistance to community members

By Hugh C. McBride

For some Americans, tax time shares a special place in their hearts – right alongside getting a root canal, buying a used car, and smashing their fingers in a car door. It’s obvious that those individuals don’t live in Stuttgart or Garmisch.

As it does every year, the Stuttgart Tax Center is helping to take the fear factor out of tax time by offering free tax-filing assistance to all U.S. identification cardholders within the 6th Area Support Group’s area of responsibility. The center’s tax experts can help with both federal and state returns (including Puerto Rico).

In Stuttgart, four tax-filing experts work Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the second floor of building 3312 on Kelley Barracks. The Stuttgart office accepts walk-in customers, but appointments are preferred (especially for those with complex returns).

In Garmisch, Bruce Gittinger, a certified public accountant, is available by appointment in building 202 on Artillery Kaserne.

Quick & easy

Though no two returns are the same, the officer in charge of the Tax Center said that most customers find the process to be much simpler than they expected.

“Most returns take less than 30 minutes to complete, and [federal returns] are filed electronically directly from our office to the

IRS,” said Capt. Andre LeBlanc. In addition to receiving expert assistance, Tax Center customers who are entitled to a refund are also likely to see their money quicker than they expected, LeBlanc added.

“Returns are usually directly deposited into our customers’ accounts within two weeks [of filing],” LeBlanc said. “There’s no more waiting for a check in the mail.”

Preparation is key

LeBlanc and tax filer Dana Schneider emphasized the importance of being prepared before visiting their office. They advised customers to bring the following documents:

- Military identification card(s)
- Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number for all dependents
- All applicable W-2 and 1099 forms
- Bank information (including routing and account numbers) for direct deposit
- Previous returns (if available)
- Power of attorney (if filing jointly and spouse is unable to attend)

LeBlanc encouraged customers to bring their Social Security card (or a copy) with them. “The number one reason for returns being rejected is that the name and the SSN don’t match up,” he said.

Tax Center personnel can even help individuals who need to file (or amend) returns from previous years. “We pride ourselves on how well we can help our customers,” Schneider said.



www.photos.com

Not sure how to take that first step toward filing your tax return? Free filing assistance is available for members of the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities.

Where to turn for tax assistance, information

Stuttgart

421-4588
0711-729-4588

Garmisch

442-2516
08821-759-516

Online

Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov



Wolves from Stuttgart's Pack 44 entertain with song and dance during a 75th anniversary dinner March 7 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Stuttgart Scouts celebrate 75th

After 3/4 of a century, Cub Scouting remains popular option for U.S. youth

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

For a few moments March 7, the Scouts of Stuttgart's Pack 44 were transported back in time to what, for them, was one of history's darkest places: The Time Before X-Box.

As master of ceremonies for the "Blue and Gold Banquet" (which celebrated the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting), Pack 44 Cubmaster Dale Hutchinson opened the event by describing life in 1930, when the "younger brother" to the Boy Scouts officially came into existence.

The assembled Scouts appeared intrigued by the thought of no Internet or astronauts. But from the squeals from the crowd, it seemed that a video game-less society was more than they could bear.

Judging from the enthusiasm of the Scouts and the number of awards, beads and badges that were dispensed during the ceremony, though, the troops of Pack 44 have filled their days with much more than consoles and computer monitors.

From the Pinewood Derby to community activities to time spent on the ski slopes, the local Scouts were recognized for taking part in a wide range of activities and educational opportunities.

To Hutchinson, this level of involvement is consistent with the mission of the organization. "No program in history has had the far-reaching effect on American youth as has Cub Scouts," he said.

In addition to the awards, a spaghetti dinner and, of course, an anniversary cake, the Scouts were also treated to remarks from Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, the deputy director of U.S. European Command's Plans and Operations Center.

Mills, whose mother was a Scout den mother and whose children were also active in Scouting, said the secret to the Cubs' success can be found in the organization's motto.

"The motto for Cub Scouts isn't 'be the best,' it's 'do your best,'" Mills said. "As long as you're trying and as long as you're participating, you're doing what all great Scouts do."



[Above] Scout Jake Whitten keeps his eye on the flame during the banquet's closing ceremony.



[Right] Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, the event's guest speaker, gets a hand from a few young men in uniform during the cake-cutting portion of the March 7 banquet.

April Activities for Stuttgart Kids (& Parents, too!)

As Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month, April will be chock-full of activities and events for Stuttgart-area youth and their families.

Highlights are listed below – but keep an eye on the Stuttgart Community Post, Command Information Channel and upcoming editions of The Citizen for the most up-to-date information.

Family Fun Run

Patch Barracks (April 2, 10:30 a.m.)

Kick off the month with a healthy 5K run (or walk) around Husky Field and along the picturesque trails just outside the Patch back gate. After your workout, enjoy a free barbecue and award ceremony in the Patch Fitness Center.

For details call 430-4512/civ. 0711-680-4512.

Lunch & Learn Seminars

Patch School Age Services (Noon to 1 p.m.)

Bring a lunch and learn a bit about issues related to the challenges of raising children in today's busy world:

- April 5: What to Do Instead of Yelling and Spanking
- April 7: What to Do Instead of TV
- April 19: Kids & Money: Teaching Children About Finance
- April 20: Healthy Meals in 20 Minutes
- April 26: Stress Management for Working Parents

For more information call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Family University

Swabian Special Events Center (April 21, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

This free educational conference will feature a number of experts discussing a wide range of topics related to raising children and developing healthy family relationships.

For a complete list of the day's seminars call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 or e-mail keita.franklin@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil.

KidsFest

Patch Barracks (April 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

End the month in style with food, fun and a fantastic scavenger hunt across Patch Barracks. Highlights include "bouncy castles" in Washington Square and an open house at Patch Arts and Crafts.

For details call Michelle Durgin at 430-8214/civ. 0711-680-8214.

USO celebrates 30th anniversary

Story & photos by Mildred Green

Stuttgart celebrated decades of German-American friendship March 2 during a ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the city's United Services Organization.

Representatives of both the host city and the U.S. military community attended the ceremony and reception in Stuttgart's *Rathaus*. Featured speakers included Stuttgart's Lord Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, USO World President Edward A. Powell and Brig. Gen. Thomas Verbeck, director of U.S. European Command's directorate of Command, Control, Communications and Warfighting Integration.

With jazz music from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe band "Check 6" wafting in the background, event attendees also enjoyed a display of historical photos and memorabilia that highlighted the integral role the USO has played in Stuttgart.

A home away from home

During the evening's ceremony, several guest speakers applauded the USO's employees and volunteers for what they have contributed to the community.

Verbeck thanked the USO Stuttgart for its "phenomenal service to families ... The USO has always exceeded beyond expectations."

Through its service to the Stuttgart military community, Verbeck noted, the organization helps to make the city a "home away from home" for service members, civilians and family members who live and work here.

During the past 30 years, the USO has provided the Stuttgart community with a vast number of programs and services, including a variety of trips throughout Germany and Europe, inter-

national cooking classes, and German-American events such as organizations highly anticipated annual golf tournament.

Continuous support

"From day one, the relationship between the German community and the USO has been wonderful," said Carmen Wallace, director of USO Stuttgart.

Wallace thanked the German community for its continuous support of the USO, and specifically noted the contributions of Hildegard Göhrum, who served as president of the USO Stuttgart council from 1988 until her recent retirement.

In addition to leading the council for the past 17 years, Göhrum had also played an integral role (along with Peggy Bergin) in the fundraising efforts to establish the Stuttgart USO in 1975, Wallace noted.

Before Wallace and Powell gave a special award to Göhrum in recognition of her decades of service, Powell reflected on Göhrum's enduring significance to the organization.

"[Göhrum] has been critical to the tenure [of USO Stuttgart] here," Powell said. "She has been special." Directing his attention toward the honoree, Wallace told Göhrum "you are loved and I will miss you."

Göhrum said that her retirement would not be the end of her work with USO, as she plans to remain on the council.

30 years of good history

Schuster also thanked USO Stuttgart's current and former members for their years of dedicated service on behalf of the community.

The organization's three decades in the area, he said, have been "30 years of good history" not only for the U.S. military community, but also for the people of Stuttgart.



[Above] A guest at the USO Stuttgart's 30th anniversary celebration examines a display highlighting the organization's decades of service to the community. In addition to displays and music, the ceremony (which was held March 2 in the Stuttgart Rathaus) also featured remarks by Stuttgart's Lord Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, USO World President Edward A. Powell and Brig. Gen. Thomas Verbeck of U.S. European Command.



[Right] Hildegard Göhrum receives a plaque and flowers in recognition of her 30 years of service. Göhrum's service to the organization included 17 years as president of the USO Stuttgart council.

Army, IMA alter property accountability rules

By Bob Rainbolt
6th ASG Property Book Office

Recent Army and Installation Management Agency Europe guidance has reduced the property threshold for property accountability to \$5,000 (with exceptions).

Many items costing under \$5,000 do not require formal property accountability by a property book officer. These types of items are referred to as durable property and must be controlled internally by the office or activity using the item.

Items that fall under the "exception" will continue to be accounted for on property books and a primary hand receipt holder will continue to sign for these items from the property book officer. The falling Items falling under the exception category:

- Items requiring asset reporting or serial number tracking IAW Department of Defense and Department of the Army programs
- TDA/MTOE/JTA equipment (regardless of price)
- Standard Army items with Reportable Item Control Codes other than (O)
- All computers (including laptops); cell phones; personal digital assistants; fuel coupons; cameras; compasses and items of organizational clothing and individual equipment

authorized by CTA 50-900

- Any items classified as sensitive.

Always check with your PBO for clarification on property accountability issues. Property accountability and responsibility can become a complex and cumbersome issue due to the many supply codes and exceptions.

Hand receipt holders in the 6th Area Support Group will have durable property (with exceptions mentioned above) removed from formal accountability on their hand receipts during their regular hand receipt update.

A spreadsheet will be provided by the PBO to the hand receipt holder that will display all the durable property. Use of hand receipts should be used when feasible to assign personal responsibility.

Department of the Army has mandated that directors or heads of offices conduct annual command management reviews of all on-hand durable property and determine if any items are missing or if there is any indication of fraud, waste or abuse.

These recent changes in property accountability do not relieve personnel of command, direct, supervisory, custodial, or personal responsibility.

For details call 421-4395/civ. 0711-729-4395 or e-mail rainboltr@6asg.army.mil

5k
Race and Family Fun Run
STUTTGART, GERMANY
Spring Fling 2005

FREE!

FREE T-SHIRT TO FIRST 300 PARTICIPANTS!

Open to all ages

Preregistration for race March 21-April 1 at the Patch Fitness Center

Late registration on race day 09:00-10:00am on Husky Field

BBQ and Ceremony to follow

MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD & Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2, 2005
RACE STARTS AT 10:30AM
on Husky Fields, Patch Barracks

For more info, call the Patch Fitness Center, DSN 430-7136/4512 or CIV 0711-680-7136/4512

No obstacle too great, no deterrent too daunting

Women’s History Month events celebrate successes, evaluate challenges

From Molly Pitcher to combat pilot:
In U.S. military, women’s roles continue to evolve, expand

By Melanie Casey

In the beginning, many masqueraded as men. During the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, for instance, American women who wanted to join the fight often went to extremes in order to serve their country.

One woman, Deborah Samson, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and fought for three years as a man.

She treated her own wounds to avoid being detected, but as she lay near death from one wound, a surgeon discovered her true identity, and she was quietly discharged (though she was later granted a pension).

Samson may have been the exception then, but today’s military woman is no less exceptional. Although women in the U.S. military still face obstacles, they have come a long way from just a century ago.

On the combat scene

From cooks and nurses to members of the Women’s Air Corps during World War II to today’s fighter pilots, women have been instrumental in the successes of our nation’s wars. They have played a role in every major American conflict – be it behind the scenes or in the heat of battle.

Along the way, they have faced their share of challenges. The first official military organization open to women was the Army Nurse Corps, founded in 1901. This was followed by the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908.

The first non-nurse female service members enlisted in the Navy during World War I – although they had no rank, no benefits and no entitlements.

Yet they still volunteered when their country called. Many people do not realize that 432 American women gave their lives during World War II – 88 of whom were prisoners of war.

During World War II, the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps formed, soon becoming the Women’s Army Corps.

WACs received rank, pay and benefits, and served in locations including Normandy, Italy, France, Germany and the South Pacific.

In addition to the WACs, some 900 American women also served as WASPs (Women Air Force Service Pilots). Collectively, these brave women logged more than 60 million air miles – and although they were paid for their services, WASPs received no other benefits (including medical benefits), and did not even earn the right to have a U.S. flag draped over their caskets when killed in action.

Women also played roles in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Urgent Fury (the 1983 invasion of Grenada) and Operation Just Cause (the 1989 invasion of Panama).

During Just Cause, 770 female U.S. service members served, and female pilots of Black Hawk helicopters came under fire. All were denied a combat patch.

Nearly 41,000 female service members served during the Persian Gulf War in the early 1990s, and as of 2003, 25,400 women have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

About 10 percent of all U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are women.

Changes lead to greater equality

In 1948, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act was passed by Congress, which allowed women to serve in the regular, active peacetime military.

There were, however, some restrictions on their service:

- Women could not make up more than 2 percent of the total force
- Women were not allowed to serve aboard Navy vessels (except hospital ships).

Military milestones

The following are just a few of the many milestones achieved by female service members:

1951 - Services are authorized to discharge pregnant women or women who have minor children. (*Air Force rescinds in 1971; other services soon follow*)

1974 - Army women eligible for aviation duty in noncombat aircraft. (*Air force follows in 1977*)

1991 - Women no longer banned from serving aboard combat aircraft engaged in combat missions.

1993 - Combat aviation opens to women.

1994 - Risk Rule rescinded - 32,000 Army and 48,000 Marine Corps positions open to women.

2003 - More than 25,000 women deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

source: Women’s Research and Education Institute.

Women in the military (As of Sept. 30, 2004)

Total: 212,156
39 general officers
Rank of most officers: O-3
Rank of most enlisted: E-4

- Female officer promotions were capped at O-3 (Captain/Lieutenant)

In 1967, the act was modified. The 2-percent ceiling was lifted and women became eligible for permanent promotion through O-6.

A major breakthrough for women in the military came in 1994 when the so-called “Risk Rule” was rescinded. According to the U.S. Congress’s September/October 1994 Update on Women and Family Issues, the risk rule stated that “risk of direct combat, exposure to hostile fire or capture are proper criteria for closing non-combat positions to women.” (*See box above for more military milestones*)

Although these changes helped open thousands of jobs for women in the U.S. military, there are still restrictions on their combat role, a topic which has been – and continues to be – hotly debated.

For more information about women in the military, visit the following Web sites:

- *Women’s Research and Education Institute:* www.wvrei.org.
- *The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services:* www.dtic.mil/dacowits.



Petty Officer 3rd Class John P. Curtis (www.defenselink.mil)
U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Barbera Silkwood, a Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, works her way through the endurance course at Camp Gonslaves, Oklahoma’s, Jungle Warfare Training Center Feb. 25. From the mud of training to the highest echelons of command, the role of female service members in the U.S. military continues to expand.

Stuttgart ceremony features pioneering diplomat

By Melanie Casey

The 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office and Directorate of Public Works helped Stuttgart celebrate Women’s History Month by co-sponsoring a March 10 luncheon observance in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

“With women playing an increasingly influential role in our society, it seems especially important that we gather at events such as this to evaluate our past progress and look ahead toward our future accomplishments,” said 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris.

‘Women Change America’

In keeping with the event’s theme of “Women Change America,” the event’s guest speaker was Christine Shelly, a National Security Affairs consultant who has worked in the Foreign Service as a member of the U.S. Department of State and with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Shelly described the progress that she and other women in the Foreign Service made during a time when men dominated political organizations. “Entering federal service at a time when few women dared to dream of achieving positions of power ... [Shelly] shattered stereotypes, she exceeded expectations and she provided a service that made our government, our nation and our world better,” Bonéy-Harris said.

During her remarks, Shelly spoke both about the history of women in the foreign service and her own distinguished career, which began in 1975 and included stints at NATO and embassies in Canada, Portugal and Egypt.

Shelly was also the first woman to serve as political advisor to an Army chief of staff when she worked with Gen. Erik Shinseki from 1999 to 2002.

Discrimination

During the 1970s, Shelly said, women in the foreign service often faced difficulty getting overseas assignments and training. They were also discriminated against if they were married, she said.

In 1976, a class action suit was initiated to address discriminatory practices such as employment, job assignments, awards and performance evaluations.

In 1979, Shelly said, all women working in the service had to decide whether or not to join the suit. Although she said she never felt discriminated against personally because of her gender, Shelly nonetheless joined the suit “in solidarity to those who had come before me,” she said.

It took until 1996 – nearly 20 years - before all aspects of the suit were finally remedied by the Department of State, Shelly noted.



Hugh C. McBride

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, right, shares a laugh with Women’s History Month guest speaker Christine Shelly after the March 10 event in the Swabian Special Events Center.

To access an online version of President George W. Bush’s Women’s History Month 2005 Proclamation:

www.whitehouse.gov

(Click “News,” then “Proclamations”)

Think you know a lot about women’s history?
Test your expertise

(Answers at bottom)

1. In 1650, she became the first published American writer with a book of poems entitled *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung up in America*.

a. Anne Bradstreet
c. Elsie S. Ott

b. Virginia Dare
d. Lucy Hobbs

2. The amount of money a woman earns for every \$1 her male counterpart does:

a. 65 cents
c. 76 cents

b. 99 cents
d. \$1

3. The first (and only) woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor was _____:

a. Amelia Earhart
c. Margaret Corbin

b. Annie G. Fox
d. Mary Walker

4. Susan B. Anthony committed a crime in 1872. What was it?

a. She helped free a slave
c. She wrote a news editorial

b. She registered to vote
d. She got married

5. Since 1982, American women have earned more of these each year than men:

a. Associate’s degree
c. Doctoral degree

b. Master’s degree
d. Bachelor’s degree

6. At age ____ and over, women in America outnumber men by two-to-one:

a. 35
c. 85

b. 75
d. 15

7. Victoria Claflin Woodhull was the first U.S. female _____:

a. U.S. Senator
c. Licensed physician

b. Elected mayor
d. Presidential candidate

8. Women living in the U.S. in 1848 could not legally:

a. own property
c. go to college

b. get divorced
d. All of the above

9. Nancy Ruth Mace, the first female cadet to graduate from the Citadel, did so in what year?

a. 1999
c. 1995

b. 2004
d. 1985

10. She was the first female member of a presidential cabinet:

a. Hilary Rodham Clinton
c. Francis Perkins

b. Condoleezza Rice
d. Barbara Boxer

Answers: 1: a; 2: c; 3: d; 4: b; 5: d; 6: c; 7: b; 8: d; 9: a; 10: c.
How did you score? 8-10 correct: You should be teaching women’s studies at Harvard. 5-7 correct: You paid attention in history class. 2-3 correct: You might want to brush up on your women’s history. 0-1 correct: You might need to join the National Organization for Women.

sources: www.infoplease.com, <http://library.thinkquest.org>.



In addition to freeing up Soldiers to focus on mission responsibilities, the Army's Installation Management Agency is dedicated to ensuring that family members who stay behind during deployments are afforded the best care the military has to offer. (Citizen file photo by Hugh C. McBride)

Caring for families, supporting the mission **IMA officials outline efforts to improve Army installations**

By Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson
Installation Management Agency

The Installation Management Agency is working to eliminate substandard facilities and services to ensure that all Army installations are desirable places to live, work, train and play.

With IMA, people can expect quality, consistency and predictability in service delivery across all Army installations.

IMA is implementing common levels of support (CLS), a method for guaranteeing the delivery of high-quality base operations support services within the funds available to the Army. When CLS is fully implemented, Soldiers, civilians and their families will be able to move from one installation to another and receive the same high quality predictable services they received at their previous installation.

IMA is currently in the data development stage of CLS [and] is moving the focus to development through implementation from October 2006 to September 2008.

The 'stay home' team for families

Committed to standards, IMA developed a standard garrison organization template. The SGO provides a standard structure with consistent functions and processes.

Upon relocation to a new station, a Soldier and his family will already be familiar with the garrison organization, will know what office to go to for specific required services and will know the level of service support to expect.

The SGO will enable the Army to distribute resources equitably across the garrisons while realizing efficiencies from best business practices, which can be uniformly implemented as standard operation procedures. SGO is targeted for implementation across the Army by the end of fiscal year 2006.

IMA has made great progress toward freeing warfighters from day-to-day installation management tasks so they can fully focus on training for combat.

For example, IMA found a way to manage the new manpower requirements for installation security that emerged following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The program has been in place for a year and 52 continental U.S. installations have

Editor's Note

- The two IMA articles on this page are excerpted from the March 2005 edition of ARMY Magazine.

- Copyright 2005 by the Association of the U.S. Army, the articles are reproduced by permission.

Barracks upgrades part of 'unprecedented change'

By Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller
U.S. Army

As the Army approaches an unprecedented level of change and technology integration, installations will experience a corresponding increase in activity and change in business processes, roles and responsibilities.

We are simultaneously and aggressively implementing facility modernization through several Army initiatives like the focused facility strategy.

There has been significant attention focused on Soldiers' barracks this past year, and it is an essential factor in increasing the number of maneuver brigades.

On an individual level, barracks rooms are perhaps the most visible and personal service we provide to our Soldiers — their homes.

Miller is the Army's assistant chief of staff for installation management.

benefited from the implementation. In 2004 the Army was able to release more than 4,000 reserve component Soldiers from access control duties.

With IMA's oversight of installations, organizations work together, creating partnerships to maximize efficiencies.

Deployed Soldiers can rest assured knowing that their families are safe and secure back at home. IMA is the "stay home" team that cares for Army communities and families and allows war fighting commanders to focus on the mission. In the past two years, IMA provided support to 250,000 families and to 470,000 children around the world.

Johnson is director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency. For more about IMA visit www.ima.army.mil.

This is the first in an ongoing series of articles in The Citizen that will address the effect of IMA transformation on the global, regional and local levels.

Multinational special ops aviation course conducted on Kelley Barracks

By Melanie Casey

Special Operations Forces representatives from 10 different nations gathered on Kelley Barracks March 7 to 11 to take part in a NATO Special Operations Aviation Planning course.

The weeklong course was hosted by Special Operations Command, Europe, and facilitated by instructors from the Joint Special Operations University in Florida and special operations experts from the United States, United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Nearly all of the students who attended the course will go on to serve in key leadership positions in the special operations component of NATO Response Force rotations 5 and 6, said Course Director Rick Newton of the JSOU.

The NRF is NATO's on-call joint task force, ready to respond to contingencies as directed by the North Atlantic Council, Newton added.

A first for NATO

The intensive course was the first of its kind held specifically for the SOF air component in NATO, Newton said.

In February, many of the same students also attended a two-week long Joint Special Operations Task Force Course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, also in preparation for NRF 5/6. The NATO School JSOTF course is directed by Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Brandt, who noted that the NATO SOF Aviation Planning course may be included into the NATO School curriculum in the future.

"The focus of this aviation planning course was for participants to learn SOF aviation command and control processes and integration with conventional C2 processes," Newton said.

The students examined the NATO air tasking order, NATO targeting process, and NATO aviation capabilities to support a JSOTF.

Perhaps more importantly, Newton added, they studied and discussed the integration of JSOTF staff elements from the air perspective, including national task forces, intelligence issues, communications challenges, and logistics support.

Building on the JSOTF course at Oberammergau, the aviation course brought together the special operations aviators and air planners to develop the special operations aspects of Allied Action 05, NATO's multinational exercise scheduled for Spring 2005.

Within the context of the Allied Action framework, participants applied the knowledge they gained to NATO's new operating concept. The course promises to offer future rewards to participating nations from a national context, as well as preparing them to work in a multinational planning and employment headquarters for NATO-led missions, Brandt added.

"There has been no consistent program in NATO to develop and maintain joint relationships with other special operations forces," said one participant, "but [this course] is the beginning of that. It's a way to examine on the functional level where the problems are and how to avoid them."

Although JSOU does offer some resident education through its partner institution, the USAF Special Operations School, it "primarily delivers operationally-focused special operations education to customers worldwide," Newton said.

For more about special ops visit www.socom.mil. For more about JSOU visit www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou.

Weather updates, road condition information available 24/7 in Stuttgart & Garmisch

The arrival of warmer weather doesn't mean the end of weather updates or road condition information messages in Stuttgart and Garmisch. The latest information is available via the following outlets:

- **6th ASG Road Condition Hotline:** Road conditions in Stuttgart and Garmisch are available around the clock via a recorded message at 421-2474/civ. 0711-729-2474.
- **6th ASG Web site:** Visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click the weather link (top center of page).
- **AFN Radio:** Listen to 102.3 FM beginning at 5:15 a.m. for weather warnings in Stuttgart.
- **Command Information Channel:** Broadcast to all on-post housing in Stuttgart, CIC slides and scrolling text feature weather information and details for locating the latest updates.



www.photos.com

Now that Spring has officially sprung, motorcycle season isn't far away. But before you climb back onto your bike, make sure you and your machine are prepared for every bend in the road.

— Ready to ride? — Prepare now for a safe cycling season

6th ASG Safety Office Release

With the sun finally starting to shine and the weather warming up, the motorcycling season will soon be upon us – and now is the time to perform preventive maintenance on your bike and get your riding skills up to par after the winter layoff.

As far as your bike is concerned, no detail is too small to be important:

- A full tune-up and service is a good place to start.
- Check tires, brakes and lights, and make adjustments that will make your bike more comfortable and manageable.
- Inspect your riding gear and replace any defective items (such as scratched face shields and tattered rainsuits).
- Equip your bike now for the rides you're planning for this summer.

But no matter how good the bike, the most important component is the person behind the handlebars.

Get yourself into cycling shape – and relearn the skills you have lost during the break – by practicing in unused parking lots.

For information about motorcycle safety training opportunities in Stuttgart call Lance Keller at 420-6033/civ. 0711-819-6033 or e-mail kellerl@6asg.army.mil

For more about general safety issues in Stuttgart and Garmisch call the 6th ASG Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

AFAP Update Committee accepts issues, assigns to area agencies

By Hugh C. McBride

Never let it be said that AFAP is a one-day event. Less than six weeks after they were raised at Stuttgart's 2005 Army Family Action Plan conference, 15 quality-of-life issues have been accepted by the local AFAP steering committee and assigned to area agencies and directorates for evaluation and implementation.

Four other issues that were raised at Stuttgart's Jan. 27 event have been elevated to the regional level, which means they will be acted upon at the Army in Europe AFAP conference May 22 to 26 in Heidelberg.

"The beauty of AFAP is that local issues are resolved locally, and issues of wider impact are elevated to the appropriate level," said Lori Everly, 6th Area Support Group's AFAP coordinator. "No AFAP issues are deemed too large or too small to be evaluated and processed."

Determining the level at which an issue should be dealt with – and who is best suited to resolve the issue – are among the AFAP steering committee's primary post-conference concerns, Everly said. The following are the issues that were accepted for local evaluation, along with the area agencies or directorates to which each issue was assigned:

Issue #6-05-56 (Size of medical facility in Stuttgart)

- Lead Agency: Stuttgart Army Medical Clinic
- Support Agency: 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works

Issue #6-05-57 (Staffing of Dental Clinic in Stuttgart)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW
- Support Agencies: Stuttgart Medical Clinic, Dental Clinic, Vet Clinic

Issue #6-05-60 (Pedestrian walkway safety)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW
- Support Agency: 6th ASG Public Affairs Office

Issue #6-05-61 (Indoor playroom facilities)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW

Issue #6-05-62 (Parking problems on Stuttgart installations)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW
- Support Agency: 6th ASG PAO

Issue #6-05-63 (Bus service schedules)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG Directorate of Logistics
- Support Agency: 6th ASG PAO

Issue #6-05-65 (Screening for families of special education children)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG Exceptional Family Member Program

Issue #6-05-66 (Space availability for dependents in DoDDS schools)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG School Liaison Officer
- Support Agency: 6th ASG PAO

Issue #6-05-67 (Force Protection resources, training, qualification)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security

Issue #6-05-68 (Conflicting school release hours)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Support Agency: 6th ASG Child and Youth Services

Issue #6-05-69 (Inadequate cable/satellite television options on post)

- Lead Agency: Army Air Force Exchange Service
- Support Agency: 6th ASG PAO

Issue #6-05-70 (Insufficient amount of childcare)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DMWR
- Support Agency: 6th ASG CYS

Issue #6-05-72 (Patch High School gymnasium)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW
- Support Agency: Department of Defense Dependents Schools

Issue #6-05-73 (Teen entertainment)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DMWR
- Support Agency: 6th ASG PAO

Issue #6-05-74 (Modernization of PHS hallways)

- Lead Agency: 6th ASG DPW
- Support Agency: DoDDS

The following four issues were elevated to the IMA-E level:

- Issue #6-05-58 (Tax on foreign Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiaries)
- Issue #6-05-59 (Matching TSP contributions for military members)
- Issue #6-05-64 (Amending SOFA to affect dependent employment)
- Issue #6-05-71 (Real-life classes in DoDDS high schools)

To track the progress of all AFAP issues from this and previous Stuttgart conferences, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil. (Select "Army Community Service," then "Army Family Action Plan.")

March is American Red Cross Month Stuttgart Red Cross office offers emergency assistance around the clock

By Melanie Casey

Gymmy Harris gets paid to stay up late. Harris, a Stuttgart American Red Cross After Hours Team Leader, works the 3:30 p.m. to midnight shift at least five times per week and on many weekends.

Stuttgart's Red Cross After Hours office on Panzer Kaserne extends to 20 areas throughout Europe – including all of Germany, the Benelux, Bosnia-Kosovo, Bahrain and parts of Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, Harris said.

Red Cross stations in those areas that do not offer after hours service forward their phones to the Stuttgart office beginning at 4:30 p.m. each day and on weekends.



Harris

Emergency communication

The bulk of the calls received by the After Hours staff involve emergency messages, Harris said. Caseworkers and team leaders may process as many as 70 messages per night, and weekends are even busier. "Nobody does what we do in the volume we do," Harris said.

Harris said the staff strives to get closure on emergency messages within 18 hours. This means a caseworker in Stuttgart receives an initial emergency message, verifies the information and then forwards the message to the service member and his or her commander – wherever they may be – within that time.

Once the service member receives the message, the Red Cross's job is complete: Whether or not the service member is granted emergency leave is then up to his or her commander.

Harris said that Stuttgart and Garmisch residents who find themselves encountering an emergency situation should take the following steps:

- First contact the service member's commander. He or she can often make decisions without involv-

ing the Red Cross, Harris said.

- If advised to contact the Stuttgart Red Cross, call 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-2818 during the day or 431-2334/civ. 07031-15-2334 after 4:30 p.m.

- Ensure that you have as much information about the service member as possible, as well as information about the emergency situation. (For instance, confirm the name of an injured relative and the name and phone number of the hospital he or she is in.) The more information you have, the quicker the message will arrive.

Relatives living in the States should first contact their local Red Cross office to start a message, Harris added.

Emergency leave consideration involves immediate family: siblings, parents and children of the service member and siblings, parents and children of the service member's spouse.

Instances involving other relatives, such as grandparents, normally fall under "ordinary leave under emergency conditions," but "just because it's not immediate family doesn't mean you don't have options," Harris said.

Once the information in the message has been verified, a Red Cross caseworker will call the person who initiated the message to let him or her know that the message is being sent to the service member.

Stuttgart Red Cross Station Manager Terri Oshiro stressed that families who take vacations while in Europe should leave travel plans as well as a good contact number (hotel or cell phone number) with a supervisor. That way, if there is an emergency, the Red Cross will be able to pass the message along quickly.

Although the Red Cross After Hours staff primarily processes and forwards emergency messages, they also act as aid society representatives for all branches of the military, Harris said, by providing electronic interest-free loans for emergencies.

In addition to its military messaging and emergency relief services, the Stuttgart Red Cross also offers health and safety and volunteer services.

For more information about the Red Cross visit www.redcross.org, or call the Stuttgart office at 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-2818.

U.S. Forces Europe Ski and Snowboard Championships draws participants from across Europe to Garmisch

Story & photos by Jen Stephan

As wind gusts sent snow devils swirling down the slopes and storm clouds hovered just beyond the surrounding Alps, competitors in the Chrysler 2005 U.S. Forces Europe Ski and Snowboard Championship at the Hausberg Lodge in Garmisch were enjoying some of the best ski conditions the annual race had seen in a long while.

"Snow, fantastic snow," enthused Kurt Hahn, director of Outdoor Recreation for the 6th Area Support Group and one of the event's coordinators. "It's the most snow we've had on the ground in many, many years."

Race announcer Joan Janssen agreed. "It's the first time in a long time we haven't heard about ice, rock or grass," she said.

This year's championship attracted a number of corporate sponsors including Chrysler, AAFES Exchange New Car Sales, Stars and Stripes and J.R. Sports. Prizes donated to the event included a snowboard and two sets of skis.

Participants in the races, numbering close to 300, came from all over Europe.

"We had one woman who showed up just yesterday who'd flown in from England at her own expense and wanted to participate," said Mueller Fitness Center Director David Oakland, who was the local logistics coordinator for the event.

Chris and April Delarosa from Hohenfels combined the championship with a family vacation to Garmisch. "We thought it just was something neat," said Chris, "Now our kids [Lauren, age 13, and Matthew age 9] can have this memory of being a part of this special event."

Sgt. Roger White drove in from Stuttgart. "I've heard about the championship for a couple of years and thought I'd give it a try," he said. "I'm really glad I came."

The day was also special for Garmisch locals. "I love the relaxed yet still competitive nature of these races," said Ari Allen, who was competing in all three events – the snowboard, giant slalom and slalom – and who was participating in the event for her third year. "Here, you can challenge yourself

yet still have fun with friends and neighbors at the same time," she said.

For one local competitor, 14-year-old Kristin Ellis, the championship was not only fun but also the second race of the day.

"I'd just finished up a 'Super G' over on the Kandahar," she said, a fact that had nearly every one of her fellow competitors groaning as her time of 1:21.70 in the giant slalom outpaced every skier of any age and either gender who participated in that event. (for more on Ellis, see story on local youths below).

The championship has only been open to youth for three years, but the speed and skill of the younger racers has the older skiers and snowboarders shaking their heads in disbelief.

Larry Baker of Garmisch, who placed first in the Men's Civilian Masters category, pointed out 12-year-old Ania Denikiewicz's first place win with admiration. "I had a bet with her for a CD that I could beat her," he said. "I won, but it was just barely." (The difference was 1.26 seconds). "I'm just glad I was careful enough not to choose her little brother," Baker added.

At 1:29.29, Ania's younger brother, 10-year-old Alex Denikiewicz, had the third fastest time of anybody in the race.



Joyce Ellis, 10, makes her way around a gate during the 2005 U.S. Forces Europe Ski and Snowboard Championship. Ellis took first place in the Junior Girls Slalom division, second in Giant Slalom and second in Girls Combined.

Garmisch local Barbie Hayes Howland, who took first place in the Women's Civilian Master's category in the slalom and second place in the same category in the giant slalom, said that there was only one problem with the race. "If they would just take the gates away," she said, "I'm even faster."

Local youths score big at ski championships

By Melanie Casey & Jen Stephan

Two local winter sports enthusiasts scored big at the 2005 U.S. Forces Ski and Snowboarding Championships held in Garmisch March 12 and 13.

Stuttgart resident Steve Murtha, 13, won the Boys Snowboarding event in his very first competition with a two-run combined time of 2:02:51.

Although he has hit the slopes several times this winter, Murtha said he didn't really focus on the competition. "I just kind of went and did it. I wasn't stressing about it. It was cool," he said.

Murtha began snowboarding four years ago, he said. Also an avid skateboarder, Murtha said the two sports complement each other by helping with balance and turns.

A member of both the Patch Ski Club and Sitzmarkers Ski Club, Murtha said he plans to continue both sports when he moves to Virginia later this year. He may also enter future competitions. "Why not," he said, "they're pretty fun."

Murtha is the son of Jim and Diane Murtha.

Garmisch resident Kristin Ellis, 14, took first place in the Girls Senior Slalom division and outpaced every other participant in the competition.

Her father, Jeff, is a fitness specialist at the Mueller Fitness Center and her mother, Christa, (a native of Garmisch) is a former ski racer. Kristin began her skiing career at age 3.

Though her training is intensive both in winter and in parts of summer, Ellis has not lost her enthusiasm for the sport. "I do it because it's fun," she said.

For Ellis, there's also a dream. "I hope to go to the World Cup someday," she said.



Murtha



Ellis

Sports Shorts

Golf course season-opening events

• The Stuttgart Golf Course hosts a **Member Appreciation Day** March 25, 4:30 to 6 p.m., in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

In addition to door prizes (including a \$300 gift certificate toward a 2005 membership), community members can purchase a membership at 10% off last year's rates.

• The course pro shop's **Inventory Blowout Sale** is March 26 to 28. Save up to 35 percent on last year's clubs, apparel and accessories.

• The course's 18-hole **Opening Day Scramble Tourney** is April 9, with a shotgun start slated for 9:30 a.m. Four-person teams may participate for a per-person price of \$20 (course and Neckartal members), \$30 (non-member U.S. identification cardholders) or 50 euros (guests).

For more about the Stuttgart Golf Course call Marco Spellacy at 0714-187-9151.

'Battle of the Titans' boxing tourney

Stuttgart hosts the "Battle of the Titans" boxing tournament April 2 in the Patch Fitness Center. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the first bout slated for 7 p.m.

This event is free to all U.S. identification cardholders. For details, or to register to participate, visit any Stuttgart-area fitness center or e-mail sanderss@6asg.army.mil.

Ski with Outdoor Rec

• Stuttgart's Outdoor Recreation office is sponsoring a ski trip to **St. Gallenkirch, Austria**, April 2. Trip fees (\$30 with equipment, \$15 without equipment) include transportation and instruction. However, a lift pass must be purchased separately.

• Outdoor Rec is also travelling to **St. Schönried, Switzerland**, April 10 to 17 for a Ski/Snowboard Week. The package includes seven nights in a hotel with breakfast and dinner, ski/snowboard equipment and transportation.

Cost is \$590 for adults and \$295 for children under age 17. Again, lift passes are not included in the price.

For more information on either of these opportunities call Chris Fliegel at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Civilian Fitness Program underway

Stay in shape with Stuttgart's Civilian Fitness Program. Sponsored by the Stuttgart Wellness Center, the program is currently accepting appointments for pre-registration fitness assessments.

For more information call Michelle Saylor at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073, e-mail saylorm@6asg.army.mil, or visit the Wellness Center (Patch Barracks, Washington Center, second floor) to pick up an enrollment packet.

Rugby team seeks players

The Stuttgart Rugby Football Club is looking for new members to join their men's and women's teams. No experience is necessary.

As the local club consists of members from several nations, this is a great opportunity for Americans to build international friendships while getting a great workout.

Practices are Wednesdays and Fridays, 7 to 9 p.m., in the Sportanlage Hohe Eiche (behind Kelley Barracks and the Mercedes Benz building).

For more information call Lt. Col. Chuck Hensley at 0711-680-4219, e-mail charles.hensley@us.army.mil or visit the team's Web site at www.rugby-stuttgart.de.

Dodgeball, Wiffleball on Patch

• Relive your favorite (or, perhaps, not-so-favorite) memories of gym class during Stuttgart's first adults-only **Dodgeball Tournament** April 9, 10 a.m., in the Patch Fitness Center.

Coed teams of six adults (ages 18 and over) will compete in one bracket for first- and second-place prizes as well as for the all-important bragging rights.

• Don't let the winter weather freeze your desire to swing for the fences. The Patch Fitness Center is hosting a 3-on-3, adults-only **Wiffleball Tournament** April 23, 10 a.m.

Men and women ages 18 and over will compete in one bracket, and prizes will be awarded to the top two teams.

There are no entry fees for either of these tournaments. For more information about these any other sports opportunities in Stuttgart call the 6th ASG Sports and Fitness Office at 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.



Stuttgart's Preston Fallin, 9, attempts to put a Peterson hold on his Landstuhl opponent during a 55 to 60-lb. weight class match March 12. Fallin and 33 other Sabercat wrestlers took on opponents from six other Youth Services team during the daylong tournament in the Panzer Fitness Center.

YS grapplers face off on Panzer

Stuttgart Sabercats host 7-team tourney for Youth Services wrestlers ages 5 to 14

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Anyone who thinks that "young" is nothing more than a synonym for "lazy" would have found that belief put to the test March 12 on Panzer Kaserne.

More than 130 wrestlers from seven Youth Services squads in Germany hit the mats in the Panzer Fitness Center for a daylong competition marked by an intensity that rivalled that of the winter storm that raged outside.

"YS wrestling is an intense two-and-a-half month season," said Stuttgart coach Raquel Hicks. "Our kids practice twice a week for two hours each time, and compete in tournaments every weekend."

In addition to the host Stuttgart Sabercats, the meet also involved teams from Ansbach, Darmstadt, Heidelberg, Landstuhl, Schweinfurt and Spangdahlem.

Carefully matched against opponents of similar size, age and experience, the wrestlers competed not for trophies and ribbons, but for the satisfaction that comes with self-improvement.

But even though official team results aren't kept during regular-season meets, that didn't stop the wrestlers' competitiveness on the mat from spilling over into the quest for bragging rights. "They kept asking me, 'Did we win, coach? Did we win?'" Hicks said.

With 34 wrestlers ("As far as I know, we're the biggest team in Germany," Hicks said), the Stuttgart squad also has a super-sized reliance on that lifeblood of youth sports: volunteers.

As Bob Gridley of the 6th Area Support Group Youth Sports Office noted, the March 12 meet was the result of a communitywide effort. Parents staffed the refreshment stand and ran the scorers' table, while volunteer student-athletes from Patch High School officiated the matches.

Looking back in the aftermath of her first home meet as head coach, Hicks said the team members – and their supporters – deserved every accolade they received. "They all exceeded my expectations," she said.



[Above] Marshall Dallas, 9, gets a pre-match pep talk from his father before taking the mat March 12 in the Panzer Fitness Center. Dallas, who wrestled in the 66 to 70-lb. class, was one of more than 130 grapplers who participated in the Stuttgart tournament.



[Left] Lucas Mills, 6, looks to his coach for advice while wrestling Sabercat teammate Joey Anderson, 5, in the 40 to 45-lb. weight class March 12.